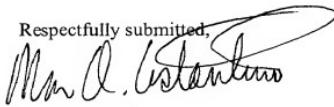


In view of the cancellation of claims 1-27, it is necessary to delete one of the inventors as an inventor of this application. A Petition for Correction of Inventorship Under 37 C.F.R. §1.48(b) and an Amendment of Inventorship are filed herewith deleting Toshiya OHTOMO as an inventor of this application. Accordingly, the sole inventor of this application is Hiroto HORIKAWA.

Applicant notes that the subject matter of claims 28-31 is supported in Japanese Patent Application No. 6-268546, which is one of the priority documents listed for this application.

Examination and allowance in due course are earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney if there are any questions or if any additional information is needed to act on the Petition or Amendments.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Mario A. Costantino
Registration No. 33,565

JAO:MAC/kna

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400